

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00910 201946Z

61

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E.O. 11652: GDS-12-31-82

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: 18 FEBRUARY NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING

REF (A) USNATO 0504; (B) USNATO 0744; (C) STATE 031945;
(D) NPG/D(74)1

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT 18 FEBRUARY NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) MEETING, SEVERAL SG REPS DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON MODIFICATIONS IN U.S. STRATEGIC TARGETING POLICY. SG CHAIRMAN (SEIM) SAID THAT IS PREPARING SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE 4 FEBRUARY NPG PERM REPS MEETING WHICH HE PLANS TO SUGGEST THAT SYG LUNS MIGHT CIRCULATE. HE NOTED THAT SYG LUNS HAS AGREED TO CONFER WITH AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTION ON THIS SUBJECT. U.S. REP SAID THAT U.S. DOES NOT WANT TO GET INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS IN THE SG AT THIS TIME, THAT WASHINGTON IS REVIEWING THE PREM REPS DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT IN CONSIDERING FURTHER CONSULTATION, AND THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH
SECRET

PAGE 02 NATO 00910 201946Z

SYG LUNS CONCERNING ANY STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN. SG AGREED TO APPROVAL BY THE SILENCE PROCEDURE OF THE DRAFT PERM REPS REPORT ON INITIATION OF THE STUDY OF IMPLICATIONS OF NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. SG INITIATED DISCUSSION OF THE MILITARY

COMMITTEE (MC) REPORT ON THE ROLE OF THE MC IN THE NUCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT 18 FEBRUARY SG MEETING, TURKISH REP (SUNGAR) ASKED WHETHER SG WOULD DISCUSS RETARGETING. SG CHAIRMAN (SEIM) SAID THAT THE IS IS PREPARING A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN POINTS OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE 4 FEBRUARY NPG PERM REPS MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT WHAT WOULD BE DONE WITH THE SUMMARY IS AN OPEN QUESTION. HE SAID HE PLANS TO SUGGEST THAT THE SUMMARY MIGHT BE CIRCULATED TO NPG PERM REPS BY SYG LUNS. SEIM NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SYG LUNS HAD AGREED TO CONFER WITH AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. DANISH REP (ROSENTHAL) RECALLED THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD SAID AT THE 4 FEBRUARY NPG PERM REPS MEETING THAT THE U.S. WOULD KEEP ITS ALLIES INFORMED ON THE PROGRESS OF RETARGETING. SEIM AGREED, AND SAID THAT THE U.S. COULD CALL A MEETING OF NPG PERM REPS AS REQUIRED, AND NOTED THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER COULD DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT AT THE SPRING NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) SAID HE THOUGHT THE 4 FEBRUARY PERM REPS MEETING ENDED ON A BLURRED NOTE REGARDING FOLLOW-UP STEPS THAT THE SG MIGHT TAKE. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ARE STILL STUDYING AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S STATEMENT, AND MAY HAVE QUESTIONS TO ASK, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN. HE SAID THERE ARE TWO QUESTIONS HE WOULD ASK: WILL THE IS CIRCULATE A SUMMARY, AND WILL THE U.S. AGREE TO SUCH CIRCULATION? U.S. REP (WOODWORTH) SAID THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT WISH TO GET INTO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS IN THE SG AT THIS TIME BECAUSE MODIFICATIONS IN U.S. TARGET/PLANS ARE ONLY IN THE EARLY STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THAT WASHINGTON IS REVIEWING THE DISCUSSIONS THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE 4 FEBRUARY PERM REPS MEETING IN CONSIDERING ANY FURTHER CONSULTATIONS THAT MIGHT BE UNDERTAEN WITH THE ALLIES. HE SAID THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH SYG LUNS CONCERNING ANY STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN. HE NOTED THAT WE EXPECT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO ADDRESS THIS SUBJECT AT THE NORWAY NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING.

SECRET

PAGE 03 NATO 00910 201946Z

2. SG CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT PERM REPS REPORT ON INITIATION OF THE STUDY OF NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY (REFS (A) AND (B)). U.S. REP AGREED (PER REF (C)) WITH OTHER SG MEMBERS ON APPROVAL OF THE REPORT BY THE SILENCE PROCEDURE. GREEK REP SAID HE EXPECTED CONFIRMATION FROM HIS AUTHORITIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY. SG CHAIRMAN SAID THAT AS SOON AS HE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM THE GREEK REP, HE WOULD REQUEST SYG LUNS TO CIRCULATE THE REPORT, CALLING FOR APPROVAL BY THE SILENCE PROCEDURE FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE DATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE DOCUMENT. CANADIAN AND DANISH REPS SAID THEY HOPED THAT THE U.S. PAPER ON ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF THE STUDY WOULD BE CIRCULATED IN TIME SO THAT IT AND THE PERM REPS REPORT COULD

BE REVIEWED IN PARALLEL. U.S. REP SAID THAT THE U.S. PAPER MAY BE CIRCULATED PRIOR TO FINAL APPROVAL OF THE PERM REPS REPORT, BUT THAT THE TWO PAPERS SHOULD IN NO WAY BE TIED TO EACH OTHER. HE SAID THAT THE U.S.PAPER WOULD BE A WORKING PAPER WITHIN THE STUDY GROUP, SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION BASED ON COMMENTS OF OTHER STUDY GROUP PARTICIPANTS, AND TO FURTHER ALTERATION AS THE STUDY PROGRESSED.

3. SG INITIATED DISCUSSION OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) REPORT ON THE FUNCTION OF THE MC IN THE NUCLEAR CONSULTATION PROCESS (REF (D) --POUCHED TO STATE AND DEFENSE). FRG, CANADIAN, AND DANISH REPS, WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL, SAID THAT THE MC REPORT RAISED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WHICH THEY FELT WOULD REQUIRE CLARIFICATION. THEIR COMMENTS CENTERED ON CONCERN THAT SOME PASSAGES OF THE REPORT MIGHT TEND TO PUT THE MC BETWEEN THE MNC'S AND DPC. SG CHAIRMAN NOTED THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE DPC-APPROVED CONSULTION GUIDELINES WHICH CENTER ON "VIEWS EXPRESSED BY ALLIES," VERSUS THE SUGGESTION IN PARTS OF THE MC REPORT THAT THE MC WOULD REACH A "COLLECTIVE" VIEW IN PROVIDING ITS ADVICE CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. U.S. REP SAID THAT ON A SUBJECT AS IMPORTANT AS NUCLEAR CONSULTATION THERE MUST BE A VERY CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS INVOLVED IN ORDER TO PREVENT CONFUSION NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

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